

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 4181, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the increased standard deduction, and the 15-percent individual income tax rate bracket expansion, for married taxpayers filing joint returns.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4445–S4624

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2353–2359, S. J. Res. 35, S. Res. 344–345, and S. Con. Res. 101.

Pages S4492–93

Measures Passed:

National Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 168, designating May 2004 as “National Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S4622

National Railroad Hall of Fame: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 255, supporting the National Railroad Hall of Fame, Inc., of Galesburg, Illinois, in its endeavor to erect a monument known as the National Railroad Hall of Fame, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Pages S4622–23

National Good Neighbor Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 340, expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should designate September 26, 2004, as “National Good Neighbor Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S4623

Día de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 342 designating April 30, 2004, as “Día de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans”, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Pages S4623–24

Internet Tax Non-Discrimination Act: Senate continued consideration of S. 150, to make permanent the moratorium on taxes on Internet access and

multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce imposed by the Internet Tax Freedom Act, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S4453–66, S4474–84

Pending:

McCain Amendment No. 3048, in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S4453–66, S4474–84

Daschle Amendment No. 3050 (to the language of the bill proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 3048), to eliminate methyl tertiary butyl ether from the United States fuel supply, to increase production and use of renewable fuel, and to increase the Nation’s energy independence.

Pages S4453–66, S4474–84

Domenici Amendment No. 3051 (to Amendment No. 3050), to enhance energy conservation and research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people.

Pages S4453–66, S4474–84

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 11 a.m., on Thursday, April 29, 2004; providing for one hour for debate, and following the use or yielding back of time, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Daschle Amendment No. 3050 (listed above).

Page S4624

Messages From the House:

Page S4491

Measures Referred:

Page S4491

Executive Communications:

Pages S4491–92

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S4493–94

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S4494–S4505

Additional Statements:

Pages S4489–91

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S4505–4621

Authority for Committees to Meet:

Pages S4621–22

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 6:16 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 29, 2004. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4624.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

MEDICAL PROGRAMS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine the state of medical programs in the armed services, focusing on the military system of teaching centers, research and development organizations, health clinics, and field hospitals, including the Force Health Protection, which is a continuum of services designed to create and maintain a healthy and fit military force, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General James B. Peake, Surgeon General of the Army; Vice Admiral Michael L. Cowan, Surgeon General of the Navy; Lieutenant General George Peach Taylor, Jr., Air Force Surgeon General; Colonel Deborah A. Gutske, Assistant Chief, Army Nurse Corps; Rear Admiral Nancy J. Lescavage, Nurse Corps, U.S. Navy; and Major General Barbara C. Brannon, Assistant Air Force Surgeon General, Nursing Services, and Assistant Air Force Surgeon General, Medical Force Development.

MILITARY FORCE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Committee on Armed Services: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing to discuss the performance of force protection equipment for ground forces in Iraq, including the Up-Armored HMMWV, and potential alternatives to meet force protection needs of the Combatant Commander from General George W. Casey, Jr., USA, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; and Lieutenant General Richard A. Cody, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, G-3.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee resumed hearings to examine telecommunications policy, focusing on the future of telecom reform, after receiving testimony from Reed E. Hundt, former Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, Adam D. Thierer, Cato Institute, Charles Ferguson, Brookings Institution, and Raymond L. Gifford, Progress and Freedom Foundation, all of Washington, D.C.; and George Gilder, Discovery Institute, Seattle, Washington.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably the following bills:

S. 1071, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study on a water conservation project within the Arch Hurley Conservancy District in the State of New Mexico, with an amendment;

S. 1097, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to implement the Calfed Bay-Delta Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1582, to amend the Valles Preservation Act to improve the preservation of the Valles Caldera, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1687, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the preservation and interpretation of the historic sites of the Manhattan Project for potential inclusion in the National Park System, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1778, to authorize a land conveyance between the United States and the City of Craig, Alaska, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1791, to amend the Lease Lot Conveyance Act of 2002 to provide that the amounts received by the United States under that Act shall be deposited in the reclamation fund;

S. Res. 321, recognizing the loyal service and outstanding contributions of J. Robert Oppenheimer to the United States and calling on the Secretary of Energy to observe the 100th anniversary of Dr. Oppenheimer's birth with appropriate programs at the Department of Energy and the Los Alamos National Laboratory;

H.R. 1521, to provide for additional lands to be included within the boundary of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in the State of Pennsylvania; and

H.R. 3249, to extend the term of the Forest Counties Payments Committee.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 1134, to reauthorize and improve the programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, after receiving testimony from David A. Sampson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Economic Development Administration; James J. Saudade, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Montpelier; Gary Gorshing, South Western Oklahoma Development Authority, Burns Flats, on behalf of the National Association of Development Organizations; R. Charles Gatson, Swope Community Builders, Kansas City, Missouri; and Phillip A. Singerman,